

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of heating glass, wherein glass is led through a tempering furnace by means of a conveyor of rollers[[, thereby]] on which the glass is supported such that the glass is heated from above and below, whereby air is blown at least onto the upper surface of the glass to heat the glass in such a way that air is sucked from the inside of the tempering furnace, the air being pressurized outside the furnace and being recirculated back into the furnace and blown back onto the glass; the air sucked from the tempering furnace is pressurized by applying the compressor principle to an overpressure of over 0.1 bar relative to the pressure in the tempering furnace; the pressurized air is led by means of a pipe system into the vicinity of the surface of the glass located upon the rollers; and the air is blown substantially perpendicularly onto the upper surface of the glass.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the lower surface of the glass is heated by blowing the air substantially perpendicularly onto the lower surface of the glass, whereby said air is provided by sucking air from the inside of the tempering furnace and by pressurizing the air sucked from the tempering furnace by applying the compressor principle to an overpressure of over 0.1 bar compared with the pressure in the tempering furnace.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the temperature of the air to be blown is over 600° C.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the glass is also heated by means of electric resistors.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the pressurization unit is used for the pressurization of the air, the rotational velocity of which pressurization unit is over 15,000 rotations per minute.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the velocity of the air is arranged to be higher than 50 m/s when it exits from the pipe system towards the surface of the glass.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the pipe system comprises blow pipes arranged in the vicinity of the surface of the glass, which blow pipes are provided with holes in such a way that the air is led onto the surface of the glass through said holes and wherein the diameter of said holes is below 2.3 mm.

8. (Original) An apparatus for heating glass, which apparatus comprises a tempering furnace comprising horizontal rollers arranged to support the glass and to form its conveyor; and means for sucking air from the inside of the tempering

furnace and for circulating the air to be blown back at least onto the upper surface of the glass, comprising a pressurization unit; a return pipe of the upper side; and blow pipes of the upper side, which blow pipes are arranged in the vicinity of the surface of the glass, whereby the return pipe is arranged to convey air from the tempering furnace to the pressurization unit, and the pressurization unit is arranged to pressurize the air conveyed from the tempering furnace to an overpressure of 0.1 bar relative to the pressure of the tempering furnace, whereby the pressurized air is hot and arranged to be blown through the blow pipes of the upper side substantially perpendicular onto the upper surface of the glass.

9. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the apparatus comprises a pressurization unit, a lower side return pipe and lower side blow pipes, whereby the lower side return pipe is arranged to lead air from the tempering furnace to a second pressurization unit, whereby the second pressurization unit is arranged to pressurize the air conveyed from the tempering furnace applying the compressor principle to an overpressure of over 0.1 bar relative to the pressure of the tempering furnace, and whereby the pressurized air is hot and arranged to be blown through the lower side blow pipes substantially perpendicularly onto the lower surface of the glass.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the temperature of the air to be blown is over 600 ° C.

11. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the pressurization unit is arranged to pressurize the air conveyed from the tempering furnace to an overpressure of over 1 bar relative to the pressure of the tempering furnace..

12. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the apparatus comprises electric resistors for heating the glass.

13. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the rotational velocity of the pressurization unit is over 15,000 rotations per minute.

14. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the velocity of the air is arranged higher than 50 m/s when it exits from the blow pipe towards the surface of the glass.

15. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the blow pipes are provided with holes through which the air flows towards the surface of the glass, and wherein the diameter of said holes is below 2.5 mm.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the air is pressurized outside the tempering furnace by a compressor which is driven by a motor also located outside the tempering furnace.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 2;~~ A method of heating glass comprising advancing a layer of glass through a tempering furnace on a roller conveyor, heating the glass from above and below by blowing heated air onto the upper and lower surfaces of the glass, sucking the air from inside the tempering furnace, pressurizing the air, which is sucked from the furnace, outside the furnace, recirculating the pressurized air back into the furnace and blowing the pressurized air through a pipe system against the upper and lower surfaces of the glass perpendicularly to the surfaces of the glass, respectively, wherein the air blown onto the upper and lower surfaces of the glass is respectively produced by separate compressors, each compressor being supplied with air sucked from the tempering furnace and each developing respective pressures of the compressed air blown onto the upper and lower surfaces of the glass respectively, said pressure of the compressed air being more than 0.1 bar compared with the pressure in the tempering furnace..

Add the following new claims:

18. (New) A method according to claim 17, wherein said layer of glass rests on and is conveyed by said conveyor rollers through the tempering surfaces.

19. (New) A method according to claim 17, wherein each compressor is driven by a respective motor also located outside the furnace.